

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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September 9, 2003

FROM: GARY PENROD, Sheriff
Sheriff's Department

**SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT FROM GEONAUTICS
INTERNATIONAL, INC.**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Find it is in the best interest of the County to approve a non-competitive procurement from Geonautics International, Inc. for the purchase of surveillance equipment.
2. Authorize Purchasing Agent to issue purchase order to Geonautics International, Inc. in the amount of \$38,695.18, for the purchase of surveillance equipment.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: County Policy No. 11-04 requires County departments to seek Board of Supervisors approval for the non-competitive procurement of goods in excess of \$25,000.

On May 20, 2003, the Board of Supervisors accepted a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) grant award from the Office of National Drug Control Policy, in the amount of \$675,000, for San Bernardino County's share of a \$1.275 million joint award with Riverside County to fund a Meth Regional Strike Force in both counties. This grant award is for the period of January 1, 2003 through December 31, 2003. There are no matching funds required.

This year's grant award included \$55,386 for the purchase of surveillance equipment and software for San Bernardino County. The proposed purchase, in the amount of \$38,695, is for the purchase of Global Positioning System tracking devices and a mapping software system. The tracking devices are attached to a suspect's vehicle, which will enable detectives to monitor the movement of suspected drug dealers and manufacturers remotely. Monitoring suspect movement via an electronic device is safer for Department personnel and far more economical than the numerous man-hours required for physical surveillance. (Note: The Department obtains a court order prior to adhering a tracking device to a vehicle).

The Department was only able to locate three vendors that provided this type of specialized equipment. The prices quoted are as follows:

| Vendor | Price |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Spy Company.com | \$19,369 |
| Geonautics International | \$38,695 |
| Orion Electronics | \$47,828 |

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Although Spy Company.com provided the lowest cost proposal, Department staff determined this system was not adequate to meet the Department's needs. The tracking information received via this system is forwarded to the vendor's website, not directly to the Sheriff's computer system. Although the information is protected by a password on the vendor's website, it would not provide the sufficient safeguards to insure the information obtained would be kept confidential. The system proposed by the other two vendors includes mapping software that enables the tracking information to be downloaded directly to the Department's computers. The Department is requesting approval to purchase the system from Geonautics International, Inc. the vendor that provided the next lowest cost proposal. Even though three quotes were received, this purchase is considered non-competitive because a vendor other than the low bidder is being recommended. The system being purchased from Geonautics International includes six tracking devices and a mapping software license for five users.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This action has been reviewed and approved as to legal form by County Counsel, (Kevin L. Norris, Deputy County Counsel) on August 26, 2003; has been reviewed by County Purchasing Department (Aurelio De La Torre, Director) on August 26, 2003; and has been reviewed by the County Administrative Office (Mario Lara, Administrative Analyst) on August 28, 2003.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: This procurement, in the amount of \$38,695, is fully funded by federal grant funds. There is no matching fund requirement. The software license fee is a one-time cost; there are no annual maintenance or license fees associated with this system. However, if the Department desires to obtain annual software mapping updates, the cost will be approximately \$2,600/year.

COST REDUCTION REVIEW: The County Administrative Office has reviewed this agenda item and concurs with the department's proposal and recommends this action because it is being fully funded by federal grant revenue that is not in jeopardy.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): All Districts

PRESENTER: Lee Hamblin, Lieutenant (387-3637)

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